

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 28 are pending in the application, are rejected, and are at issue.

Applicant's attorney would like to thank the examiner for the courtesy extended during the recent telephone discussion of the application. As requested, the present response explains the deficiencies of the rejection presented by the prior examiner. If issues remain after review of this request, the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve such issues.

This application relates to an invention in the form of a system and method that provides unique capabilities, efficiencies and benefits in the storage, use, creation, management and publishing of electronic documents as well as the associated text, graphical and image elements contained within the electronic documents. Because of the types of data the invention deals with and the types of uses that it enables, it can be said that the field of the invention is loosely associated with digital asset management (DAM) systems and content management (CM) systems as well as print or Web publishing systems, business and graphic arts document software applications and their respective technology and use variations. And although the invention has many of the capabilities of such systems and applications, it is unique in integrating the best features of such systems and applications in a single user focused system.

At the base of the invention is its unique data model, which addresses all aspects of defining electronic documents created or edited by any type of office or graphic arts software application. This includes text, graphical or image data originating from any other type of electronic or hard-copy source that has been subsequently converted or transformed to an electronic document.

The invention's unique object-oriented data model is comprised of the highest level of document data granularity, which is to say that the data model addresses all of the exact details of electronic document software code via an object-oriented hierarchical schema. In broad terms this object-oriented document data granularity can be said to be comprised of separate and linked document-specific and element-specific identities, metadata, relationships, properties and property values.

One aspect of the invention's uniqueness is its process for importing single electronic documents, collections of electronic documents and electronic document components, which have been created over time by individuals, groups of individuals and/or organizations such as corporations and government entities. The electronic documents imports are not limited in any way by the document type, the manner or software application used to originate them or any aspect of the document's composition or layout.

The disclosed system's importing process is unique in that it provides an automated sequence of functions, which consists of: 1) converting electronic documents of all types and compositional layouts, which originated in any type of software application code format to a standardized software code format that preserves all document characteristics, content, content relationships and style attributes, 2) parsing imported documents into their various components using a unique data model, 3) comparing each component of imported documents to other imported document components when a batch-mode import of more than one document is involved, 4) comparing each imported document component to document components already in the system's archive, 5) automatically reconciling imported documents and document components to achieve compliance with pre-determined rules when applicable, 6) eliminating redundant document and redundant document components according to pre-determined rules when applicable, 7) generating unique names for remaining imported documents and document elements, 8) generating tags for remaining document components so as to preserve their relationship to the documents from which they came 9) generating a report on the import, comparison, elimination and tagging results 10) archiving the imported document components according to the system's unique data model.

Another aspect in which the invention is unique is that its comparison feature, in conjunction with the granularity of its unique data model, enables users to quickly identify all types of similarities and differences between imported or archived documents, document components, component relationships and style attributes. Among the numerous benefits of this capability are substantial savings in work-effort, time and cost in pre-publication quality control inspections, which today are conventionally executed via manually-intensive proofreading.

Associated with the invention's comparison feature is a capability, which enables user's to create rules for the automatic or user-facilitated correction of documents, document components, component relationships and style attributes to achieve compliance with requirements or standards. This inclusive of such requirements or standards as regulatory agency mandates for text language or text style attributes; brand identity or graphic standards for graphical or image element dimensions, shape, position, color or relationship to other document elements and reproduction requirements for achieving quality results for print or electronic publishing.

Also associated with the invention's comparison and rules managed document information is a capability that enables users to, via automatic or user-facilitated means, eliminate the redundancy of documents, document components, component relationships and style attributes, which are otherwise an inherent aspect of current digital asset management systems.

The invention is also unique because the combination of its data model granularity and its comparison and/or redundancy elimination capabilities, enables users to execute changes to the document components, component relationships and style attributes as they appear in a single document and concurrently apply those same changes to any combination of other documents within the invention archive. An example of use of this capability could involve a need to replace a logo which appears on hundreds or thousands of archived documents. In this example users of the invention would be able to execute the logo replacement to a single document and concurrently apply the replacement to any combination of other documents in the archive. This would provide notable work-effort, time and cost savings in contrast to conventional document archiving technology where effecting such a logo replacement to multiple documents would require that each document in which the logo appears be downloaded from the archive, opened and changed manually through the use of a separate document creation and editing software application.

Beyond the editing of existing documents, the invention is unique in that it provides an integrated archiving and document creation/editing capability. As such, the

invention enables users to create new documents by utilizing document components and component characteristics that are stored in the archive. This capability can also be used to create many types of new document components, component relationships and style attributes that don't exist in the archive.

In viewing or outputting documents or document component elements the invention's naming and tagging of documents, document components, component relationships and style attributes enables the compiling of documents to composite form. When rules have been created and applied to achieve the publishing requirements for documents, the compiled document can be output in a manner that eliminates the otherwise manually intensive work-effort time and cost involved with their pre-publication preparation for print or electronic publication channels.

While elements of the disclosed system and method can be found in DAM systems, CM systems, Web publishing systems or business and graphic arts document software applications, none of the systems or applications in these fields employ the invention's unique high granularity, object-oriented data model to achieve the range and magnitude of efficiencies of the invention. It is also accurate to say that none of these types of systems or applications employs all of the inventions capabilities or its unique document importing process.

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 1-7, 9-10 and 12-19 as anticipated by Tian et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,671,353.

The rejection effectively treats independent claims 1 and 10 a synonymous. In fact, the claims are distinct and should be treated as such.

The Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit has clearly stated that an anticipation can only be established by a single prior art reference which discloses each and every element of the claimed invention arranged as in the claim. See Lindemann Maschinenfabrik GmbH v. American Hoist & Derrick Co., 221 USPQ 481 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

Independent claim 1 specifies a method of archiving an item comprising presenting the item to a parser; parsing the item into a plurality of multi-part object structures wherein portions of the structures have searchable information tags associated therewith;

evaluating the object structures in accordance with object structures previously stored in an archive; presenting an evaluated object structure for manual reconciliation at least where there is a predetermined variance between the object and at least one of a predetermined standard and a user defined rule.

Tian et al. does not disclose or suggest a method of archiving an item. More particularly, it does not disclose presenting an item to a parser. Nor does it disclose parsing the item into a plurality of multi-part object structures. Nor does it disclose evaluating object structures in accordance with object structures previously stored in an archive. Finally, it does not disclose presenting an evaluated object structure for manual reconciliation.

The action states that Tian et al. discloses a method of archiving an item. In fact, Tian et al. is not related to processes or procedures for performing archiving. Archiving is the storage of back up files. Tian et al. is directed to semantically validating incoming and outgoing messages to ensure that they conform to a standard. Semantically validating messages has nothing to do with archiving.

Particularly, Tian et al. relates to sending and receiving digital medical images to work stations using a DICOM standard. The DICOM standard provides a common format for messages. Tian et al. is directed to verifying that a message to be transmitted conforms to the standard. As described in Tian et al., a DICOM message has various element or modules that should be present. These elements and modules are analyzed based on classes of rules and warnings to semantically validate the messages . This is described throughout the specification and is generally summarized in claim 1 of Tian et al.

Tian et al. discloses that the images are transferred in connection with a Picture Archival and Communication System (PACS). However, the description in Tian et al. relates to the communication aspects of a PACS, not the archival aspects

Tian et al. does not disclose or suggest parsing of any item. Instead, Tian et al. specifies that the message is comprised of a list of elements and modules. There is no step present to take an existing message and parse it into various parts.

The action references the operational scenarios with respect to evaluating object structures. This evaluation compares pre-set rules with elements and modules in a message. It does not evaluate object structures in accordance with object structures previously stored in an archive. There is no such archive present or contemplated by Tian et al.

Finally, with respect to the claimed step of presenting an evaluated object for manual reconciliation, the action points to col. 10, lines 25-29 of Tian et al. The referenced passage relates to the ability of the developer to correct errors in a message. This is distinct from the claimed invention which allows for manual reconciliation of an evaluated object structure.

The action attempts to take the individual steps in applicant's claim 1 and find similar individual steps performed in Tian et al. To the extent there might appear to be some similarity with individual steps, they are in fact different. Moreover, the steps in Tian et al. do not function together as in claim 1 herein. Tian et al. is directed to an entirely different objective than the present invention, communication of a message, rather than archiving of an item. Because Tian et al. does not disclose each and every element of claim 1, arranged as in the claim, there is no anticipation and the rejection is improper. Moreover, because Tian et al. does not suggest the invention defined by claim 1, any obviousness rejection would also be improper.

Claims 2-7 and 9 depend from claim 1 and are believed allowable for the same reasons therefor.

Independent claim 10 specifies an object, oriented archival system comprising a storage medium, and a set of executable instructions for establishing an archive of documents represented by linked object oriented elements stored in the medium. The archive exhibits minimal redundancy with at least some elements linked to pluralities of the elements and wherein some of the instructions, in response to a selected editing command, alter at least one element common to and linked to a selected plurality of other elements to thereby effect a one-too-many editing process and additional instructions for compiling an output file, in a selected format.

The action indicates that claim 10 is rejected on substantially the same basis as claim 1. However, there is no detailed explanation as to how each and every element of claim 10, arranged as in the claim, is found in Tian et al. In fact, they are not. As noted above, Tian et

al. does not relate to archiving documents. It relates to semantically validating a message. It does not relate to an archive exhibiting minimal redundancy. Nor does it relate to altering at least one element common to and linked to a selected plurality of other elements to affect a one-too-many editing process. Nor does the action reference any such teaching.

Because Tian et al. does not disclose each and every element of claim 10, as arranged as in the claim, there is no anticipation and the rejection is improper. Tian et al. is not remotely related to the invention defined by claim 10. As such, it does not suggest the invention of claim 10. Therefore, any obviousness rejection would also be improper.

Claims 12-19 depend from claim 10 and are believed allowable for the same reasons therefor.

For the above reasons, the rejection of claims 1-7, 9-10 and 12-19 ought be withdrawn.

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 8, 11 and 20-28 as obvious over Tian et al. in view of Ringness U.S. Patent No. 6,456,395.

Claims 8 and 11 depend from claims 1 and 10, respectively. The deficiencies with respect to Tian et al. and claims 1 and 10 are noted above. Ringness does not disclose or suggest these deficiencies. Therefore, any obviousness rejection of claims 8 and 11 is improper.

Independent claim 20 specifies a method of generating layers corresponding to color separations for a printing process comprising: establishing an archive populated with a plurality of graphically oriented object-type structures wherein a first plurality of the structures represents a first layer, corresponding to a color separation for a multi-color output document, wherein the members of the first plurality are linked to establish element definitions and locations, relative to one another, in the first layer, and, at least a second plurality of the structures wherein the second plurality represents a second layer corresponding to a second color separation for the output document wherein the members of the second plurality are linked to establish element definitions and locations, relative to one another, in the second layer, and, wherein the establishing step includes, analyzing the members of the first and second pluralities

for common structures, and storing a representation of only one structure in the event that multiple common structures are detected.

In attempting to boot strap an obviousness argument, the action uses the terminology from the claim (as was done with claim 1, above), to describe the teachings of Tian et al. There is no support for such analysis Tian et al. For example, the action states at page 6, “referring first to claim 20, Tian discloses a method of generating layers corresponding to separations in an object: . . .”. Tian et al. has nothing to do with generating layers corresponding to separations in an object. Indeed, claim 20 relates to generating layers corresponding to color separations for a printing process. This is not even remotely related to semantically validating a DICOM message, as described in Tian et al. Semantically validating a message has nothing to do with generating layers corresponding to color separations for a printing process.

Moreover, contrary to that recited in the action, Tian et al. does not disclose establishing an archive. Tian et al. is directed to communication of messages in an archival system, as discussed above. Moreover, it does not disclose or suggest structures representing a first layer corresponding to a color separation, and structures representing a second layer corresponding to a second color separation for an output document. Nor does it disclose or suggest analyzing members of the first and second pluralities for common structures and storing a representation of only one structure in the event that multiple common structures are detected.

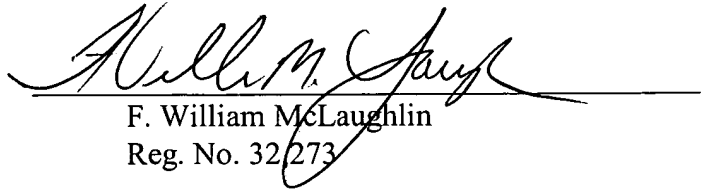
Claim 20 is clearly not obvious over Tian et al. which is not even remotely relevant. The action acknowledges that the structures and layers of Tian et al. do not correspond to color separations for a printing process. In fact, there are no structures and layers even present in Tian et al. Ringness is relied on for use of color separations. Combining the teachings of Ringness which relates to a method of separating colors, with Tian et al., which relates to semantically validating a message, would serve no purpose. Separating colors has nothing to do with validating a message. Therefore, the combination is improper. In any event, the combination would not result in the claimed invention as the deficiencies identified above with respect to Tian et al. are not present in Ringness so that the combination would not result in the

claimed invention. For these reasons, claim 20 and its dependent claims 21-28 are not obvious and the rejection is improper and ought be withdrawn.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance and passage to issue are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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